

City College News

GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE

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Photo: Ellen de Boer

AM I HAVING FUN YET? - One-year-old Brendan Ramrattan looks a little apprehensive at the staff picnic at Centre Island in May. Brendan's mom, Mayree Ramrattan of Computer Services, says the picnic was a new experience for him and he was particularly puzzled when his dad, Kimchan, led some of the 250 picnic-goers in aerobics. Brendan's umbrella was a functional rather than fashion accessory, as a light rain fell for part of the day.

Recession reduces 1991 graduate employment rate to 59 per cent

For hundreds of 1991 George Brown graduates the thrill of convocation was followed by the agony of a fruitless job hunt.

These victims of the economic recession spent months pounding the pavement looking for work, made do with part-time jobs, and many opted to continue their education.

The graduates without full-time jobs related to their studies account for more than 40 per cent of the 2,100 people who graduated from post-secondary programs in 1991, a study has found.

Of that 40 per cent, almost half were unemployed six months after graduation. Other people were working part-time — including 20 per cent of the college's health sciences graduates — some took jobs unrelated to their studies, and one in ten were still at

school full-time.

Casa Loma Placement Consultant Nancy Moore says a large number of graduates of two-year technician programs in the School of Technology stayed on to take another year and earn a technologist diploma because of few job opportunities in their fields.

The employment rate for 1991 graduates in full-time jobs related to their studies, which is also called the placement rate, hit a 10-year low of 59 per cent of the total.

In contrast, 91 per cent of people who graduated into a booming economy in 1987 found work related to their studies.

Moore, who helped produce the study, says George Brown students appear to be no worse off than those from other colleges around the prov-

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Record numbers apply to college: but fewer coming

George Brown has faced both a flood of applicants and a drought of students in some programs this summer.

To the surprise of many staff, a much smaller proportion of applicants for post-secondary programs are saying they'll come to the college.

By early June, the number of accepted applicants confirming their attendance this fall with a \$50 confirmation fee was down more than 17 per cent from last year, although by the end of the month it was almost on par with 1991. College administrators are confident most college programs would be filled by the start of classes.

Post-secondary admissions manager Brian Schlotzhauer says it appears that more applicants are deciding to stay in jobs they have now — rather than risk a career change in the recession. Others have sent applications to several colleges, and have decided to go to other institutions.

While other Metro colleges have also seen a big increase in applicants this year, George Brown appears to be alone in facing a lower rate of confirmations, Schlotzhauer says.

"Everybody else jumped up about 10 per cent (in confirmations) from last year," he says.

The situation varies across the college. Confirmations by Hospitality, Graphic Arts and Community Services students are up from last year, while they are down in Health Sciences, Business and Fashion divisions.

Some of the most dramatic declines in confirmation rates are in the Health Sciences Division. It received a large number of applicants, many of whom did not qualify academically for the program they chose.

To increase the confirmation rate, staff in several divisions are phoning people who have been accepted but decided not to confirm, and the college has done some newspaper advertising to increase the number of applicants for fall programs.

Events

July 1 - Canada Day. College closed.

July 8 - Staff Development Workshop: *Diversity, Human Rights and You*. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Casa Loma Campus. This workshop will focus on the diversity of the college community and rights and responsibilities of college staff. Three workshop groups are planned with a limit of 25 participants in each. For more information call Barb at 944-4662.

July 15 - Deadline for fees payment for new post-secondary students starting in September. Returning students pay fees by July 31.

August 3 - Ontario Civic Holiday. College closed.

August 14 - 15 - *Get to know TO*: orientation weekend for new students. Events begin Aug. 15 at 2 p.m. with an orientation session to Toronto followed by dinner and entertainment at 6 p.m. and a sleepover at St. James. Aug. 16 events start at 9:30 a.m. with student services information followed by lunch, a draw for prizes, and a bus tour to Casa Loma, Kensington and Nightingale. All events are held at St. James. Dinner and entertainment cost \$10. Sponsored by the college's student administrative councils and the Student Services Department. For information call the St. James SAC at 867-2454.

Aug. 31 - First day of classes for most post-secondary programs. Staff are being invited to welcome new and returning students to their campuses today and Sept. 1, in a program sponsored by the college's student administrative councils and the Student Life Advisory Committee. For more information call Dudley Campbell at 867-2106.

Sept. 7 - Labour Day. College closed.

Upcoming - First Annual George Brown Golf Tournament to raise money for athletic scholarships.

It will be held on Sept. 24, 1992 at the Cedar Brae Golf and Country Club. Tickets cost \$150 including green fees, cart, banquet and scholarship donation. For details call Alex Barbier at 867-2099.

Gord Armstrong was first vice president

The name Gord Armstrong inspires a good deal of nostalgia among long-time George Brown employees.

It takes them back to the heady first decade of George Brown's existence, when it was a smaller and more intimate organization.

Armstrong, who died in mid-May after a long illness at the age of 77, was George Brown's first academic vice-president — a position he held until his retirement in 1976.

He is remembered by staff for his generous spirit and good humour.

"He wasn't just liked," says one veteran of those years, "He was loved."

Armstrong was named to the post in 1969, when the Adult Education Centres of the Toronto Board of Education, of which he was a principal, were incorporated into the two-year-old college.

Armstrong's interest in education may have developed in the Canadian Army. He was a company commander of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in the Second World War, and was heavily involved in cadet training.

He joined the Toronto Board in 1947 as a secondary school teacher, with later promotions to department head and vice-principal. In 1965 he organized and became principal of an adult education centre at Bloor and Yonge. A year later he established and headed the adult education centre at 507 College St., which became the College Campus of George Brown until it was



Gord Armstrong, shown here at Casa Loma in 1975, was George Brown's first vice-president. He retired in 1976.

closed at the end of 1987.

When the adult education centres joined the college in 1969, Armstrong was named the college's first ever vice-president under founding president Clifford Lloyd. From the outset he was responsible for programs — a role that was formalized in 1973 when he was named academic vice-president and John Stephens was made the first administration vice-president.

Armstrong, who had a BA from McMaster University, is survived by his wife Laura, sons Rob and David, and daughter Barbara Jill.

Recession cuts graduate employment rate

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ince.

Employers shunned new graduates in favour of unemployed people who had on-the-job experience, she says.

"They'd say, 'I can go out and hire someone with 10 years experience and pay them the same salary.'

Particularly hard hit were students graduating into business, construction, or goods-producing sectors.

Graduate employment fell to 31 per cent for School of Technology programs, 39 per cent for Fashion Division programs and 52 per cent in School of Business programs.

Employment rates were above 65 per cent for graduates from Community Services, Health Sciences and Hospitality divisions.

The recession forced staff of the

college's placement offices to shift their work from tracking down scarce graduates for employers to tracking down scarce employers for a large pool of unemployed graduates.

They also spent more time teaching job-search and resume-writing skills to students, Moore says.

It may be too early to tell with any certainty, but George Brown's 1992 graduates may fare better in the job market than their counterparts did a year ago.

"I'm getting more employers coming in (this summer)," says Moore.

The graduate employment report is produced annually from a mail and telephone survey of graduates taken six months after they leave college.

The 1991 report is based on responses from 58 per cent of the total number of graduates.

Wanted: staff and student opinions on college issues

If you've said it once, you've probably said it a thousand times. Now here's your chance to put it in writing.

Starting in September, *City College News* will start publishing letters and other submissions from college staff and students about college events and issues.

"For eight years, the newsletter has reflected the official view of the college. Now we want to open it up to other viewpoints," says *City College News* editorial board chair Jill Holroyd.

The board, made up of staff and student representatives, decided at its first meeting in June to use the newsletter as a forum for staff and student opinions.

Apart from libellous material and material that is judged discriminatory, *City College News* will consider publishing any opinion, news or analysis from staff or students if it has the space, Holroyd says.

From time to time, the editorial board may solicit articles from staff to rebut criticism in submissions and carry both pieces in the same issue, Holroyd says.

Sitting on the editorial board are St. James English and Liberal Studies Chair Ron Waldie, Fran Dungey of the Staff Training and Development Office, Sue Thomson of the Futures program in the Access Division, full-time student and Nightingale SAC President Zein Charania, and part-time student Leland Clipperton.

In late August, the September issue of *City College News* will be distributed to both staff and students for the first time.

About 20,000 copies of the publication, which has been issued monthly by the college since 1983, will be available to staff, students and college visitors in boxes located at the entrances to college buildings. It will also be mailed to community partners.

Signed submissions, which may be edited for length, spelling and grammar, should be sent to: Editor, *City College News*, St. James Campus, room 542-E. Staff or students who wish to discuss their submission may call Jill Holroyd at 867-2523, or Neil McGillivray at 867-2060.



ALL TIED UP- George Brown Theatre program graduate Matt Handy is wrapped in red tape by Sharon Bernbaum in a scene from the short play that kicked off the academic planning process in early June. Handy played a George Brown student and Bernbaum, who is also a Theatre graduate, played a staff member in the production.

MCU has busy summer of college planning

These may be the lazy days of summer for some—but not at the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

Throughout the summer, Ministry staff are forging quickly ahead with policy initiatives that could eventually alter the way George Brown, and all other Ontario colleges, operate.

Plans for the summer include:

- Formation of a College Restructuring Steering Committee that has been given the mandate of recommending options for changing how colleges operate, according to Colleges and Universities Minister Richard Allen. The 16-member committee, which will have representatives of college staff, students and governors, will be chaired by Council of Regents chair Richard Johnston and Assistant Deputy Minister Bernard Shapiro. A similar committee has been formed for restructuring universities.
- Formation of a college/school board working group to study issues of common interest such as curriculum connections, learning assessment and competing English as a Second Language programs. "It's crazy that we compete," Richard Johnston told the faculty conference in late May when he spoke about the working group.

- Development of draft recommendations by the College Standards and Accreditation Council following province-wide hearings at colleges this spring.
- Selection of members of the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board (OTAB), including two representatives of the education sector which includes colleges.

The Board will make decisions about how skills training, remediation and apprenticeship funding will be spent in Ontario.

Access Dean Terry Dance sits on a three-person group of college representatives which will be nominating board candidates to the education sector, whose names could then be put forward to the provincial government for positions on the board.

OTAB information officer Mark Sherwin says the Minister has asked all labour market partners, including educators as well as business, organized labour and social action groups, to submit their nominations by the first week of August, with the first board meeting tentatively scheduled for September.

"Things have to move quickly," says Sherwin.

Names in the News



Bookstores manager **Dan Benson** has been elected a director of the Canadian Booksellers' Association, a national group of publishers, retailers and government agencies. Benson will represent the views of college and university bookstores at the association, which is involved with trade and product exhibition, lobbying and professional development.

The Human Resources Department reports the following staff changes:

Stephen Siblock has joined the Registrar's Office as Manager of Systems and Records. In a related move, Associate Registrar **Joanne Waddington** has been named Manager of Registration Centres.

New support staff includes **Sai Lung Chan** in the Electronics Department of the School of Technology at Casa Loma; **York Golz** in the Computer Aided Engineering Department of the School of Technology at Casa Loma; **Jeanne Jordan-Awang** in the English and Liberal Studies Department at St. James and **Alice Lee** in the Registrar's Office at 500 MacPherson Ave.

Internal transfers include: **Glenda Comeau** and **Wyomia Ramsey**, who move to new jobs in the School of Business and Graphic Arts Division, Comeau is now a clerk C and Ramsey is now administrative assistant in the Continuing Education section of the two divisions. **Rejeanne Dupuis** has been promoted to Acting Manager of the French Centre in the absence of **Christiane Emond**, who has been seconded to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. **Phulmati Mohabir** has left a support position in the English and Liberal Studies Department for one in the Futures program, and **Christine Teal** has joined support staff in the School of Business after working on a government-sponsored microcomputer training program.

City College News

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George Brown  The City College

QUEBEC CITY TO TORONTO CHARITY RIDE PLANNED - Community Services Dean **Jeff Vile** (above) is a familiar sight to many staff who see him commuting to work and travelling between campuses on his bicycle. Now he's planning a more ambitious ride — from Quebec City to Toronto. Vile plans to raise money for a childrens charity by riding the 1,100 kilometers in 10 days starting Aug. 9. "It won't always be fun, but it will be worthwhile," he says. To join the ride, he needs to raise \$3,000 in donations or pledges for the Canadian Christian Children's Fund. To help out, call Vile's office at 867-2569. Donations earn donors a tax credit.

A scholarship has been established to recognize the contributions of **June Kingshott** to George Brown. Kingshott, who retires at the end of June, has been executive co-ordinator of the college's Advisory Committee for Equity (formerly called the Affirmative Action Advisory Committee) for more than 10 years. "I have often said that I should have received combat pay for being on the front line of the battle for affirmative action/equal opportunity/equity," she says in her farewell article in the ACE newsletter. The June Kingshott Bursary will go to a francophone or aboriginal woman who has shown a commitment to equity. Contributions for the fund are being collected by the President's Office. For information please call **Cynthia McDonagh** at 944-4473.

George Brown College is now a more familiar name to thousands of people from all over Europe who have visited the 1992 World's Fair in Seville, Spain.

Community Services teacher **Barbara Eligrich** has changed her name to **Barbara Librach**.

Cast Loma caretaker **Frank Loizzo** has retired from the college after a career that spanned more than two decades. He started work at George Brown in 1968.

Leaving the college is **John Harries**.